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serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in villages and is the Hon. Minister also aware of the fact that these officials do not adduce any reason for such refusal which is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the High Court of Madras? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" If it is about Chingleput district, let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I shall amend my question, Sir. My question relates to the entire State of Madras."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will allow the Hon. Minister to answer the second part of the question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Let me repeat my question, Sir. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in many cases where the grant of licence was refused, it was refused on the pretext that the applicants did not serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in rural areas? The second part of my question is . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has now left out ' Chingleput district ' from his question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The second part of the question is ' Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that proper reasons are not adduced while refusing these licences? ' This is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the Madras High Court."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is a general question. The question under reply relates to South Kanara."

Repairs to the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank.

* 1109 *Q.*—SRI G. GOVINDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to repair the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The work of constructing a new bridge at about 200 feet upstream of the existing old bridge was sanctioned recently by the Central Government and will be taken up for execution shortly."

Assignment of 15 cents of land to each Harijan family in Malabar.

* 1110 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have directed the Collector of Malabar to expedite the assignment of house-sites (15 cents of land) to each Harijan family and adequate available cultivable land to the landless persons (Harijans); and

(*b*) if so, the extent of house-sites and lands so far assigned in the year 1953?